

Register result

The following action has been taken by a Federal agency. It was summarized in CONSUMER REGISTER as a proposal.

• **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** has adopted regulations to require buyers of bottled & canned carbonated beverages to make a 5¢ deposit on the containers. Requirement applies only to beverages sold at Federal facilities. Containers are not necessarily reusable—purpose is to reduce solid waste & litter on Federal facilities. EPA received 5955 comments on the proposal from industry representatives, labor unions, environmental groups, other government agencies & consumers. Federal facilities must send EPA a schedule of their plan by October 1977. For additional information on implementing the regulations, write or call Marion Thompson, Office of Solid Waste Management Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC 20460; phone: 202-755-9145. Details—*Federal Register*: Sept. 21, page 41202; Nov. 13, 1975, page 52968. CONSUMER REGISTER: Dec. 15, 1975.

Metric education (continued)

As reported in CONSUMER REGISTER: June 1, **Office of Education (OC)** is authorized to award contracts & grants to schools & educational agencies for metric instruction projects. OE has now awarded 72 grants worth more than \$2 million. Included were grants to state education agencies, nonprofit public & private institutions, local education agencies & colleges.

For a complete listing of the metric education program grantees by state, write to Office of Public Affairs, Office of Education, Washington, DC 20202. Ask for release number HEW-H5, dated Sept. 23.

Details—*Federal Register*: April 21, page 16766. CONSUMER REGISTER: June 1.

Pull-tab & pull-off lid containers

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has denied a petition by James M. Durlacher of Indianapolis, IN, to develop a safety standard to regulate pull-tab & pull-off lid containers. Petitioner said the tabs & lids can cut hands & fingers while opening & hurt small children playing with the inner rim of an opened container. Petitioner suggested coating removable lids to make them less likely to cut & providing warning notices on containers.

After considering injury data & other available information, CPSC decided these lids do not present a greater hazard than that associated with the problem of sharp edges of conventional metal cans. According to CPSC's information, injuries from pull-tab & pull-off lid containers were responsible for 5,600 emergency room visits in 1975 & injuries from conventional cans were responsible for 61,000 emergency room visits.

Details—*Federal Register*: Sept. 17, page 40216.

Mobile homes

Housing & Urban Development Dept. (HUD) has delayed the effective date of certain provisions of its implementing regulations for mobile home construction & safety. These provisions are concerned primarily with handling consumer complaints on flaws in mobile homes—flaws that must, by law, be corrected.

New effective date is Dec. 15. HUD says the delay is necessary to avoid confusion & improper implementation of the National Mobile Home Construction & Safety Standards Act of 1974. Delay had been requested by several mobile home manufacturers. However, HUD points out that manufacturers remain responsible for assuring that all mobile homes they sell conform to Federal standards.

Details—*Federal Register*: Sept. 17, page 40337; June 21, page 24971.

Cyclamate

Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has denied a petition by the cyclamate manufacturer Abbott Laboratories to allow the return of the artificial sweetener to the market.

Cyclamate has been banned since 1969 because a study showed bladder tumors developed in animals that were fed the sweetener.

Petition, filed early in 1974, said its new studies showed the sweetener to be safe. However, a group of experts appointed by the **National Cancer Institute** studied the petition & other information & concluded that the safety of cyclamate could not be established. This means that saccharine is the only artificial sweetener that is available to consumers—studies are still going on to determine the safety of that product.

Details—*Federal Register*: Oct. 4, page 43754; Feb. 8, 1974, page 4935. CONSUMER REGISTER: March 1, 1974. CONSUMER NEWS: Dec. 1, 1974. Although FDA's order became effective Oct. 4, anyone who would be adversely affected by the order may file written objections before Nov. 3 with Hearing Clerk, Food & Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

Lead in paint (continued)

Oct. 26 is new deadline for comments on **Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC)** proceeding to determine a safe level of lead in paint. National Paint & Coatings Association asked for more time to comment.

Details—*Federal Register*: Oct. 6, page 44126; Aug. 10, page 33637. CONSUMER REGISTER: Sept. 1. Send comments to Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207.

Margarine (?) & butter (?)

Oct. 29 is deadline for comments on **Food & Drug Administration's (FDA)** proposal to establish a common or new name for margarine or butter substitutes. Substitutes are "look-alikes" that contain less fat &/or oil than real margarine or butter. (Real butter & margarine call for an 80% fat content.)

Present regulations require that food resembling another food, but nutritionally inferior to the other food, be labeled "imitation." However, just reducing the fat or caloric content of a food is not a criterion of nutritional inferiority. On the other hand, since real butter & margarine contain 15,000 international units of Vitamin A per 454 grams (one pound), any substitute containing less Vitamin A than "the real thing" would be labeled "imitation."

Butter & margarine substitutes—whether nutritionally inferior to real butter & margarine or not—are displayed near

butter & margarine in grocery stores, & they do not always carry a prominent declaration of the fat content on their labels. Therefore, FDA is proposing names for the substitutes that will tell consumers at a glance what is real & what is substitute butter or substitute margarine.

Proposed names are:

- "Vegetable oil spread—contains 40% fat."
- "Dairy spread—contains 40% fat."
- "Vegetable & dairy spread—contains 40% fat."

Details—*Federal Register*: Aug. 30, page 36509. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Food & Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

Children's sleepwear

Nov. 5 is deadline for comments on **Consumer Product Safety Commission's** (CPSC) proposal to permit care instructions for flame-retardant sleepwear to be placed on the reverse side of loop labels. Present regulations do not allow this. Under the proposal, new instructions would be permitted on the underside of the loop labels if the notice "Care instructions on reverse" is visible on the top side of the loop & if the consumer can see instructions in the store where he or she buys the sleepwear.

Some manufacturers of sleepwear say that placing instructions on loop labels is less expensive than using other types of labels. (Care instructions are necessary for flame-retardant sleepwear because some procedures—such as ironing, hard water & certain soaps—tend to make the sleepwear less flame retardant, depending on the fabric or flame-retardant treatment used.)

Details—*Federal Register*: Oct. 5, page 43917. Send comments to Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207.

Cigar & pipe smoking

Nov. 8 is deadline for comments on **Civil Aeronautics Board's** (CAB) proposal to ban all cigar & pipe smoking on planes.

Proposal is result of a petition by Action on Smoking & Health (ASH), a nonprofit public interest group. ASH maintains that cigar & pipe smoke is harder to dissipate & is more voluminous than cigarette smoke, & therefore causes more discomfort than cigarette smoke.

In addition to banning cigar & pipe smoking, CAB is proposing to strengthen its existing requirements for no smoking areas on planes. If proposal is adopted, airlines would not be allowed to have more than one smoking area per aircraft compartment & would have to make sure there are enough seats in no smoking areas to take care of everyone who wants to sit there. This means specific provisions would have to be made to expand the no smoking area to meet passenger demand.

CAB is also interested in receiving comments on whether:

- A total smoking ban—including cigarettes—should be imposed?
- There should be separate flights for smoking & nonsmoking passengers?
- Should smoking be prohibited on a selective basis, such as length of flight & number of stops?

CAB has received information suggesting that public tolerance of smoking has decreased since the original restrictions were imposed.

Details—*Federal Register*: Oct. 8, page 44424. Send comments to Docket Section, Civil Aeronautics Board, Washington, DC 20428.

Estrogen

Nov. 29 is deadline for comments on **Food & Drug Administration's** (FDA) proposal to require that women taking estrogen for the discomfort of the menopause be given simply written brochures, telling them about the risks & benefits of the female hormone. Brochure would be in addition to the doctor's advice when an estrogen drug is prescribed. This proposal does not include patient labeling for "the pill" or the "morning after" emergency contraceptive because these products already require patient labeling [*CONSUMER REGISTER*: Nov. 15, 1975; March 1, 1975; Oct. 15, 1973].

Estrogen warnings are proposed because FDA has received reports linking the use of estrogen-containing drugs to cancer of the uterus & to birth defects.

FDA says that since the primary use of estrogens is for "otherwise healthy women undergoing the natural process of menopause," having brochures available should help them decide whether the risks (of taking the hormone) are worth the benefits they receive from the use. However, FDA also points out that estrogens are valuable in treating severe symptoms of the menopause. Proposed rules are to reduce misuse & overuse.

The following information would have to be included in the brochures if proposed requirement becomes final:

- If estrogens are used for more than a year to treat the symptoms of menopause, there is an increased risk of cancer of the uterus—the risk appears to be greater the longer the use & the higher the dose.
- Estrogens should not be taken to treat simple nervousness during menopause because they have not been shown to be effective for that purpose—or for keeping skin soft & for helping women feel young.
- Women taking estrogen should have a physical examination at least every 6 months.
- Also: Women who become pregnant during menopause should never be given estrogens because of the danger of birth defects.
- In general, estrogens should not be taken by women with breast or uterine cancer, undiagnosed abnormal vaginal bleeding or clotting in the legs or lungs, or by women who have had heart disease, angina or a stroke.

Details—*Federal Register*: Sept. 29, page 43108. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Food & Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

Meeting

- **BROADCASTING—Federal Communications Commission** (FCC) will hold regional meetings—"Ask the FCC"—with the public & broadcasters at the following places, where consumers will have an opportunity to question FCC commissioners between 6:30 & 10:30 p.m.

Oct 19

Hyatt Regency Hotel (ballroom)
Houston, TX

Oct. 28

Kansas City Municipal Auditorium (music hall)
Kansas City, MO

This listing, prepared by Marion Q. Ciaccio, is intended only as summary coverage of selected *Federal Register* items deemed of particular interest to consumers, & it does not affect the legal status or effect of any document required or authorized to be published pursuant to Section 5 of Federal Register Act as amended, 44 U.S.C. 1505. *Federal Register* is published Monday through Friday (except Federal Government holidays) by **Office of the Federal Register, National Archives & Records Service, General Services Administration**. Subscription is \$5 a month or \$50 a year & may be ordered from **Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402**. Superintendent also sells copies of *Federal Register* for 75¢ each. Free copies of *Federal Register* may be available in libraries.

For you

These forms are for you to use, if you wish, in commenting on any Federal Agency proposal summarized in CONSUMER REGISTER. Of course, if you cannot get your comments on the front & back of a form, feel free to continue your comments on additional paper.

Send comment forms to addresses listed in the summaries.

CONSUMER NEWS is publishing these forms in cooperation with Food & Drug Administration (FDA).

Rate Register

Mail

- As a result of the Postal Reorganization Act Amendments of 1976 that were signed by President Ford, Postal Service (PS) will get a \$1 billion subsidy for the next 2 years. Amendments also provide that PS must wait 10 months—or until March 15, 1977—before it can (1) cut down on its service; (2) increase postal rates; or (3) close any post office where 35 or fewer families regularly receive their mail & which was providing service on July 1, 1976.

Another amendment establishes a **Commission on Postal Service**, composed of 7 voting members—3 appointed by the President, 2 by the President pro tempore of the Senate, & 3 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. This commission will identify & study problems dealing with economic & social aspects of the postal system & how the financial problems of PS can be solved. Commission must send its recommendations to Congress by March 15.

- **Postal Service (PS)** has set a schedule for customers to begin mailing Christmas cards & packages overseas. Briefly:

Oct. 25—Surface cards to the Far East.

Oct. 28—US forces surface mail to Antarctica, Australia, Burma, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Okinawa, Philippines, Taiwan & Thailand.

Nov. 1—Space Available Mail packages to US forces in Ethiopia, Iran, Israel, Saudi Arabia & Turkey. Regular surface packages to Africa & Near East.

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Clip this form, fill in blanks, write your comments & mail to agency noted in CONSUMER REGISTER item.

This is my opinion on (title of item in CONSUMER REGISTER) _____

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Rate Register

(continued)

Nov. 4—Regular surface greeting cards to Africa & Near East.

Nov. 8—Parcel Air Lift packages to US forces in Ethiopia, Iran, Israel, Saudi Arabia & Turkey.

Nov. 11—Surface & space available mail packages to US forces in South & Central America, Liberia & Republic of Zaire. Surface mail to US forces in Belgium, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal & Spain. Regular surface packages to South & Central America & Europe.

(Schedules for later in November will appear in next issue of RATE REGISTER.)

Planes

• **Civil Aeronautics Board** (CAB) has approved fare increases up to 6% for routes between the US & Central & South America, & they may go into effect immediately.

• **Civil Aeronautics Board** (CAB) has approved a request by Pan American Airways to fly passengers on a domestic route for the first time—between Detroit & Boston. Until now, PanAm could fly passengers between these points only as part of a European trip. CAB said this action was necessary since "removal of an unnecessary & wasteful restriction is not only warranted but clearly required by the public interest."

• **Civil Aeronautics Board** (CAB) has amended its rules that emphasize the right of consumers to intervene in formal CAB matters. This "interpretive" amendment went into effect in late August.

• **Civil Aeronautics Board** (CAB) has suspended Trans World Airlines' proposal to permit buyers of excursion "Discover America" fares to buy tickets either 10 days after making the reservation or one calendar month before departure.

• Beginning Oct. 31, Pan American World Airways will begin "Round-the-world" 747 service from Washington, DC, to Iran & India. Flights will stop in New York, London, Frankfurt, Tehran, New Delhi, Bangkok, Hong Kong & Tokyo & will cost \$1,917, with stopovers at any of the cities listed above. Global tour must be completed within 365 days.

• **Civil Aeronautics Board** (CAB) has denied a request by Hawaiian Airlines to permit senior citizens to travel at 35% discount on a standby basis anywhere on Hawaiian Airlines' system. CAB denied the request because it said existing rules "preclude fares which favor a particular class of persons unless the resulting discrimination is shown to be justified by transportation-related considerations . . ."

